



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

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COUNCIL HEARS, DISCUSSES REPORT FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE ON COUNTY RESPONSE TO SEPTEMBER 11

The Montgomery County Council today received a comprehensive report on the County's response to the tragedy of September 11, as well as plans for meeting possible future threats. Addressing the Council were County Executive Doug Duncan, Chief Administrative Officer Bruce Romer, Police Chief Charles Moose, Fire & Rescue Administrator Gordon Aoyagi, Montgomery College president Charlene Nunley, and Sheriff Ray Kight.

"All County government agencies came together to get the job done for our residents – and to help others in the metro area -- on September 11," said Council President Blair Ewing. "Our public safety workers, the school system, Montgomery College – everybody pitched in to respond in a disciplined way to a difficult and challenging situation."

"I want to thank the Council for your valuable input and the critical support you gave," said County Executive Doug Duncan. "And thanks for your leadership since September 11. This was a great team effort."

Duncan also announced that he would be sending the Council a proposal for \$47 million over seven years for additional measures to bolster the County's ability to respond to future crises, including an immediate \$6 million emergency appropriation

"If there are issues we have left out, please let us know," Duncan told the Council.

The Council, in turn, praised the County Executive's leadership. "It was as good as it gets," said Councilmember Michael Subin, the Council's liaison to the Emergency Operations Center. (over...)

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“Our advance planning for such emergencies paid off,” said Chief Administrative Officer Romer. “There was timely decision-making. We communicated to the public in a unified and consistent way. And we communicated well with other jurisdictions in the region.

“On the flip side, our Emergency Operations Center is badly overcrowded. We need to do better on our donation management. We need to do better in communicating with seniors. We need to beef up our evacuation procedures in major County buildings. And we need more capacity to respond to possible multiple events.”

“I’m sure the Council will be supportive of what needs to be done,” said Council President Ewing.

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